

Statement on International Holocaust Remembrance Day
January 26, 2023

Tomorrow Jill and I will pause to mourn the 6 million Jews who were systematically and savagely murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators during the Holocaust and to grieve the Roma and Sinti, Slavs, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and political dissidents who were also killed. As we join nations around the world in bearing witness to this dark chapter in our shared history, we also honor survivors and their stories, pledging to always remember, and to keep faith with that sacred vow: Never again.

"Never again" was a promise my father first instilled in me at our family dinner table, educating me and my siblings about the horrors of the Shoah. It's a lesson I've passed on to my own children and grandchildren by taking them to Dachau to understand for themselves the depths of this evil—and the complicity of those who knew what was happening, yet said nothing. Seeing neo-Nazis and White nationalists march from the shadows in Charlottesville in 2017, spewing the same antisemitic bile we heard in the 1930s in Europe, drove me to run for President.

Sadly, we have seen over and over again that hate never goes away. It only hides—waiting to reemerge whenever it is given just a little bit of oxygen. And today, across our country, we are seeing swastikas on cars, anti-Semitic banners on bridges, verbal and physical attacks against Jewish businesses and Jewish Americans, even Holocaust denialism. It's vile. It goes against everything we value as Americans. And each of us must speak out against this poison. Together, we must affirm, over and over, that hate has no safe harbor in America.

That is exactly what my administration is doing. Working with partners around the country, we held a historic White House Summit on Combating Hate-Fueled Violence. We appointed the first Ambassador-level Special Envoy To Monitor and Combat Antisemitism. We are developing a national strategy to fight anti-Semitism. We've secured the largest increase in funding ever for the physical security of nonprofits, including synagogues and Jewish community centers. We continue to support Holocaust survivors to ensure they can live the rest of their lives with dignity and security. And to mark this day of remembrance, the Second Gentleman of the United States, Douglas Emhoff, is participating in a commemoration ceremony at the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in Poland and will be visiting Berlin, Germany, to coordinate international efforts to combat anti-Semitism.

On International Holocaust Remembrance Day and every day, the United States stands with Holocaust victims, their families, and their descendants. We remember. We honor their stories. We will face down the hate and the lies that carry in them the terrifying echoes of one of the worst chapters in human history. And for generations to come, we will continue to defend our foundational values as a nation: freedom, equality, and dignity for all human beings.

NOTE: The statement referred to the President's brothers James and Francis Biden and sister Valerie Biden Owens; and U.S. Special Envoy To Monitor and Combat Antisemitism Deborah E. Lipstadt.

Categories: Statements by the President : International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Names: Biden, Francis W.; Biden, James B.; Biden, Jill T.; Emhoff, Douglas C.; Lipstadt, Deborah E.; Owens, Valerie Biden.

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